



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025



*Growing together in faith to abundantly
nourish our community*

200 Longwood Drive SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

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In Worship Today...

Narrative Lectionary: Forgiven at Jesus' Feet

Prelude: O Divine Redeemer; Gounod

Welcome | Gathering Hymn: **As We Gather at Your Table** ELW 522

Confession and Forgiveness | **Glory to God in Heaven** ELW p.204 | Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Psalm 103:2-6 *Pew Bible p.482*

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia** ELW p.205 | Luke 7:36-50 *Pew Bible p.840*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling** ELW 608

Prayers of Intercession | Welcoming of New Members

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: You Hold It All; Trio

Communion Liturgy with **Holy, Holy, Holy** ELW p.507

Distribution: Just As I Am with Softly and Tenderly

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve** ELW 551

Dismissal | Postlude: Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Bill Henze | Lector: David Provancha | Acolyte: Annika Williams

Ushers: Diane & Klaus Dahl | Tech Volunteer: Denise Williamson

Communion Assistants: Annika Williams, David Provancha, Julie Starkweather

Worship Musician: Mark Jerrell | Coffee Host: Rob Caple

St. Mark's Celebrates Open Communion

which means none are turned away from Christ's table. We believe Christ is fully present in the bread and wine, and no less present in our gluten-free and alcohol-free options. If you wish instead to receive a blessing, you may signify this by crossing your arms over your chest.

We Welcome the Joy, Laughter, Sights, and Sounds of Children in Worship!

There are children's activity bulletins and worship activity bags available - just ask our ushers. If a moment out of the sanctuary is needed, a toy-filled nursery and changing table are available too, however, we ask that an adult family member stay present at all times.

Welcome New Members!

We are excited and delighted to welcome Jason, Kayla & Everett Hyder; Crystal Peden; and Eric Schwartz as St. Mark's members.

Behold, the Life-Giving Cross

During Epiphany, we've learned about some of the ways our sanctuary points to God through symbols and adornments. Perhaps the most well-known symbol of our faith is the cross. For Christians, the cross stands as a reminder of Jesus' death for the sake of the world. An empty cross reminds us that Jesus rose again in assurance of the resurrection promised to us; a cross that bears the image of Jesus' body (a crucifix) is a reminder of Jesus' sacrificial love for us. In our sanctuary, there are several crosses: some are part of the design of the carpet, or atop the hymn boards and columbarium. The most prominent cross stands at the front of the sanctuary and has a Christogram, the letters IHS (a shortened form of the Latin spelling of Jesus' name), in the center. Our processional cross bears the symbols for each of the evangelists on the arms, with a lamb in the center, representing Christ; during Lent, we use a crucifix for our processional cross. Where else have you seen crosses as a reminder of your faith?

Altar Flowers

The flower arrangements on our Communion Table today are given by Larry & Susan Partesotti in loving memory of their daughter Rebecca.

By the Numbers: February 16, 2025

Attendance

In Person Worship: 126 | Online Views: 51

Child & Youth Sunday School: 24 | Adult Sunday School: 28

General Offerings Last Week

Last Week: \$10,683.25 | YTD: \$87,320 | 2025 Budget: \$787,899

For your convenience, online giving can be accessed through this QR Code:



This Week We are Praying for...

Those affected by tornadoes, cold, and other extreme weather conditions | Our neighbors living without access to adequate shelter, food, and other resources | All those living under threat of violence and persecution especially our LGBTQIA+ siblings | St. Mark's Art Group as they explore their creativity and share their talents | And those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Ciera, Don, Carrie, Suzy, Frank, Mija, Elaine, and Kim.

A Prayer Ministry email filled with joys, concerns, and sorrows sent weekly on Wednesday; if you would like to receive this email, please contact prayer@stmarkshsv.org Prayer cards are available in the pews to share your joys and concerns and can be placed in the offering plate.

Featured Art from St. Mark's Art Group

St. Mark's Art Group will feature artwork every couple of weeks in the Narthex created by members of the group. Be sure to check out the current piece on display!

Greeter Ministry

We are starting up a new Greeter ministry in conjunction with our ushers on Sundays to warmly welcome visitors with a friendly face and a goodie bag. If you are interested, then please sign up in Communication Central (near the women's bathroom) by February 28.

Spring WELCA Cluster Meeting

March 1 from 10am-3pm at Faith Lutheran in Clay, AL. Please sign up in Communication Central to let us know you can attend and would like to carpool.

Ash Wednesday & Lent

Our Lenten season kicks off with Ash Wednesday, March 5 services at 12 & 6:30pm. We also invite you to join us for a new Lenten mid-week experience! On Wednesdays, March 12 - April 9, we will gather around the table to share a meal and worship together in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be at 6pm and flow into worship at 6:30. If you would like to help with dinner, a sign-up is available in Communication Central.

Summer Camp Registration

Already making summer plans? Consider adding a summer camp (or two!) to your calendar! For 6th grade - college sophomores, spend a week at AFFIRM (June 15 -20), a youth event of the ELCA Southeastern Synod that St. Mark's youth and staff attend each year. For kiddos aged 4-11, St. Mark's offers TWO different day camps (June 23 - 27 AND July 14 -18) full of crafts, service projects, Bible stories, games, silly songs, and more! Scan this QR code to register and learn more!



What's Next? - Sign Up in Communication Central

Check out the sign up board for info on upcoming events. Something new and exciting is always on the horizon! Supper Club, Faith & Fiction, WELCA, Free Spirits, and more!

Ready to Get Online?

Wi-Fi is available using the SMLC Guest network with password: GrowingTogether

St. Mark's Staff

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